



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 25 March 2008

Current Nationwide



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- According to the Asbury Park Press, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) recently responded to concerns regarding radiation emissions from Oyster Creek Generating Station, telling Ocean County officials the power plant meets all of its radiation safety requirements. (See item [7](#))
- Local6.com Orlando reports a chunk of a US Airways wing separated during a flight from Orlando to Philadelphia and cracked a passenger's window. Officials said somewhere over Baltimore on Saturday, a panel from the left wing of a US Airways 757 flew off and hit the plane. (See item [12](#))

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## **Energy Sector**

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical**: ELEVATED, **Cyber**: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *March 24, Salina Journal* – (Kansas) **Salina delegation stays firm on coal.** Salina's legislators dug in their heels Saturday morning, reiterating their support for the energy bill vetoed Friday by the governor of Kansas. Most of the questions from the audience focused on SB 327, which would have overturned the state's refusal to issue air quality permits for a pair of 700 megawatt coal plants and would restrict authority of the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. "The rumor is there is a second bill being worked on and an override won't be attempted," a senator said. He

pointed out that the cost of building new coal plants has been skyrocketing, and the cost of coal itself has been rising sharply. And then there is the prospect of a federal carbon tax. Westar Energy, citing massive increases in the cost of coal-fired power plants, recently announced it is postponing indefinitely its plans for new coal-fired plants.

Source: <http://www.saljournal.com/rdnews/story/legislative-forum-3-22-08>

2. *March 24, Arkansas Democrat Gazette* – (National) **Ethanol presents fire challenge.** Many small-town and rural fire departments across the nation do not buy alcohol-resistant foam to snuff out corn-based ethanol fires because it is too expensive. “The proliferation of ethanol is becoming an issue in our communities,” said the national programs director for the International Association of Fire Chiefs in Fairfax, Virginia. “Preparation nationally for these fires varies widely, but I think we have a severe shortage of alcohol-resistant foam in our communities,” he said. Small cities are likely to look to the regional hazardous materials team for help if a major ethanol fire comes to pass, said a fire chief in Gentry, Arkansas. They would take the same approach if a tanker carrying gasoline or diesel fuel caught fire. “We’d make the initial response, and once we identified it, we’d activate the regional team,” he said.  
Source: <http://www.nwanews.com/adg/News/220730/>
3. *March 23, WBBM 2 Chicago* – (Illinois) **Freight train derails, load of coal burns.** A freight train derailment on Chicago’s South Side is under investigation. Flames shot 15-feet into the air after four coal cars derailed in a switching yard. It happened Sunday around 10:30 a.m. The derailment ruptured a small underground gas line which ignited the coal. The gas company was called in to help out. “We stood by and awaited the arrival of people’s gas in order to isolate the valves to have this turned off and there was no other further impingement upon the flames,” said a fire official. Once the gas was shut off, firefighters were able to douse the fire with foam.  
Source: <http://cbs2chicago.com/local/freight.train.derails.2.683117.html>
4. *March 23, South Florida Sun-Sentinel* – (Florida) **Many gas stations’ buried tanks too thin; state requires double walls to avert leaks.** Forty-three percent of underground fuel storage tanks in south Florida are out of compliance with a state law requiring gas stations and other owners to upgrade their facilities, a South Florida Sun-Sentinel analysis found. The law approved by the Legislature 18 years ago requires a double-walled system for underground storage tanks by 2009. The Sun-Sentinel analyzed data collected from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as of January 28. A total of 11,168 underground fuel tanks in Florida – out of 26,529 – have not been replaced with the proper systems, data show. Industry experts said thousands of gas stations could be forced out of business if they fail to meet the December 31, 2009, deadline. Many gas station owners, they said, cannot afford to install the systems, which cost \$250,000 to \$400,000. State officials said tank owners who do not make preparations to begin work by summer could run into trouble because ordering and installing the tanks could take months. Only a limited number – perhaps dozens – of state-certified contractors are qualified to do the work.  
Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/business/sfl-flhlpfuel tanks0323sbmar23,0,4814369.story?page=1>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

Nothing to Report

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## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector**

5. *March 24, Associated Press* – (Nevada) **Authorities cite, release protestors.** Nineteen anti-nuclear protesters were cited for trespassing during an annual rally Sunday outside the Nevada Test Site, security officials said. They were among about 30 demonstrators who took part in the event sponsored by the Nevada Desert Experience outside the test site, said the protest organizer. The 19 protesters were released after being cited by Nye County sheriff's deputies for crossing onto test site property, said a spokesman for the company that provides security there. The Nevada Desert Experience has been holding the test site rallies around Easter since 1981.  
Source: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/16948486.html>
6. *March 24, Cutting Edge* – (National) **Nuclear energy breakthrough – from atomic waste to recycled inert material.** Israeli firm Environmental Energy Resources (EER) has created a reactor that converts radioactive, hazardous, and municipal waste into inert byproducts such as glass and clean energy. Using a system called plasma gasification melting technology developed by Russian and Israeli scientists, EER combines high temperatures and low-radioactive energy to transform waste. "We are not burning. This is the key word," said EER's president. "When you burn you produce dioxin. Instead, we vacuum out the oxygen to prevent combustion." He said that EER can take low-radioactive, medical, and municipal solid waste and produce from it clean energy that "can be used for just about anything including building and paving roads." The cost for treating and burying low-radioactive nuclear waste currently stands at about \$30,000 per ton. The EER process will cost \$3,000 per ton and produce only a one percent per volume solid byproduct. In the U.S., EER is working to treat low-radioactive liquid waste and recently contracted with Energy Solutions.  
Source: <http://www.thecuttingedge.com/index.php?article=381>
7. *March 23, Asbury Park Press* – (New Jersey) **Nuclear plant meets radiation safety standards, NRC says.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) recently responded to concerns regarding radiation emissions from Oyster Creek Generating Station, telling Ocean County officials the power plant meets all of its radiation safety requirements. The director of the NRC's Division of License Renewal Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation responded to a January 17 letter from an Ocean County administrator, saying the NRC completed its environmental review for the license renewal of the plant. "As part of the NRC's radiological evaluation process for license renewal, we reviewed several years of radiological data contained in Oyster Creek's annual radiological effluent and environmental monitoring reports and performed an on-site audit of the facility," the director said. He added that the agency "found that the

information in those reports, and the information obtained during the site audit, met the NRC's radiation protection requirements for protection of the public."

Source:

<http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080323/NEWS02/803230350>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

8. *March 23, Maryland Daily Record* – (National) **U.S. orders Smiths detectors.** Smiths Detection, of Edgewood, a maker of antiterrorism and security systems, announced that its military unit was awarded a \$23.8 million contract to supply the U.S. Department of Defense with lightweight chemical detectors under the Pentagon's Joint Chemical Agent Detector program. The M4 JCAD is based on the Smiths Detection Lightweight Chemical Detector, widely adopted by military forces globally. The advanced chemical point detector has been developed to detect both chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals.

Source: <http://www.mddailyrecord.com/article.cfm?id=4787&type=UTTM>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

9. *March 24, Daily Advocate* – (Ohio) **Telephone scam targets three local banks.** Hundreds of Greenville, Ohio, area residents with the telephone prefixes of 547- and 548- were called after business hours Friday night in what is believed to be a telephone scam. The president of Greenville National Bank said the scam involved his bank as well as Second National Bank and Greenville Federal. According to him, the recorded message people received stated in part: "'Your account has been suspended' and then they are given instructions to call another number and when that is done it says, 'Welcome to the security department of Greenville National Bank. If you wish to reactivate your account, press 1; enter the 16-digit code of your credit card number; punch in your expiration date; PIN number.'"
10. *March 23, Star Tribune* – (National) **Stock scam illustrates growing problem.** Penny-stock fraud – scams involving low-priced shares of small, obscure companies – is on the rise, the Securities and Exchange Commission says. The SEC's website has a page dedicated to pump-and-dump scams on the Internet, offering tips for avoiding overhyped stocks. In the matter of a small company, Beverage Creations, according to the SEC, three Texas investors and entities they controlled purchased a large block of stock from the Mendota Heights company at 2 cents a share. For 9,999,999 shares, Beverage Creations received \$199,999, the SEC said. To stimulate interest in the stock, the investors used family and friends to generate trades and build volume and "give the appearance of increased demand for BCI stock," according to the government lawsuit.

Then the hype began, first with a full-color promotional mailer that stated “Early investors could make a fortune with [BCI]” and alluded to potential profits of 250 percent in the first 30 days and 799 percent by 2009. At the same time, the investors hyped the stock on a website, the hosting fee for which was paid for by one of the Texas defendants named in the SEC complaint and administered by the sister of another of the named defendants. After less than two months on Pink Sheets, an electronic quote system for over-the-counter stocks, trading in Beverage Creations was suspended by the SEC and a lawsuit was filed for a permanent injunction to stop the pump-and-dump activities. The SEC has accused the company of fraud and alleged that it lied when it publicly denied any connection to one of the stock promoters. Pump-and-dump schemes have been around for years but appear to have mushroomed in recent years with the help of the Internet. The SEC became so concerned with stock fraud on the Internet that it started an “anti-spam initiative” last year when complaints over the practice soared. The agency even monitors YouTube for promotional stock videos. The digital security firm SonicWall says penny-stock e-mail scams jumped by 400 percent in 2006 and were up at a double-digit rate in 2007.

Source: <http://www.tradingmarkets.com/.site/news/Stock%20News/1236935/>

11. *March 23, Associated Press* – (National) **Credit card breach raises broad concerns.** When up to 4.2 million account numbers were stolen over three months by thieves who cracked computers at the Hannaford supermarket chain, it at first sounded like the latest in a long line of credit card breaches. But the specifics of the crime, revealed last week, included some troubling twists that might expose big holes in the payment industry’s security standards. Thieves have commonly pilfered card data from databases maintained by merchants or card processors, but the Hannaford episode appears to be the first large-scale piracy of data in transit. The breach has raised questions about whether other merchants are overconfident about their security. The president of InfoSecCompliance, a Denver law firm that concentrates on computer security and regulatory compliance, said Hannaford and its assessor might have been tripped up by ambiguity in the Payment Card Industry standards about when companies must encrypt payment data to cloak it from outsiders. In particular, the standards require companies to encrypt data that travels over computer networks “that are easy and common for a hacker to intercept.” Wider use of encryption might seem an obvious answer. But in practice, encryption is unused at certain points in a data-processing chain because the computing power it requires can slow transactions. Hannaford would not discuss specifics of its security system, so it was unclear to what extent its stores encrypted payment data in the transmission process.

Source: <http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20080323/ZNYT02/803230792>

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## **Transportation Sector**

12. *March 24, WKMG 6 Orlando* – (Maryland) **Wing part flies off, cracks passenger window during Orlando flight.** A chunk of a US Airways wing separated during a flight from Orlando to Philadelphia and cracked a passenger’s window. Officials said somewhere over Baltimore on Saturday, a panel from the left wing of a US Airways 757

flew off and hit the plane. The wing part cracked a window on row 19 of the plane, *Local 6* reported. A reporter was among the 160 passengers on the flight and snapped some photos of the damage. Pilots slowed the airplane down, flew at a lower altitude and moved passengers out of the row for the remainder of the flight.

Source: <http://www.local6.com/news/15682885/detail.html>

13. *March 24, WCNC 6 Charlotte* – (North Carolina) **Pilot's gun discharges on US Airways flight.** A US Airways pilot's gun accidentally discharged during a flight from Denver to Charlotte, North Carolina, Saturday, according to a statement released by the airline. The Airbus A319 plane landed safely and none of the flight's 124 passengers or five crew members was injured, according to the statement. An airline spokeswoman said the plane has been taken out of service to make sure it is safe to return to flight. A Transportation Safety Administration spokeswoman reached by *WCNC* Sunday said the pilot is part of TSA's Federal Flight Deck Officer program, which trains pilots to carry guns on flights. The official said the gun discharged in the cockpit, but she could not release how the gun was being transported at the time.  
Source: <http://www.wcnc.com/news/topstories/stories/wcnc-032308-sjf-gunonplane.1c4cabd1.html>
14. *March 24, USA Today* – (National) **States urged to comply with ID rule.** Millions of residents of three states will soon face tougher and longer screening at airport checkpoints if their governors defy a federal law requiring new, more-secure driver's licenses. Maine, New Hampshire and South Carolina have until March 31 to say whether they plan to comply with the law, which they say is costly and will inconvenience residents by forcing them to get new licenses. If the states do not comply, the Homeland Security Department will bar travelers from using those state's licenses and ID cards to board airplanes starting May 11. Some fear massive confusion and delays at the 15 airports in the three states. Passengers showing unacceptable licenses will be pulled aside for additional screening, possibly including pat-downs. Travelers with passports or military IDs will avoid the extra screening. Thirty percent of Americans have passports, the State Department says. Homeland Security officials are in discussions with governors of the three states, a department spokeswoman said. Each of the states enacted a law last year barring it from complying with the 2005 federal Real ID Act. That law set a May 11 deadline for states to issue tamper-resistant licenses that require proof of citizenship and address. The department pushed back the deadline and for now requires states only to seek an extension by March 31.  
Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-03-23-licenses\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-03-23-licenses_N.htm)
15. *March 23, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Pre-collapse photos show bends on bridge.** Two old photos of the Interstate 35W bridge, which are part of a report issued earlier this month by the National Transportation Safety Board, reveal that gusset plates that hold beams together at two separate connecting points, were visibly bent as early as 2003. The plates are in areas believed to be among the first points of failure when the span collapsed. The two photos are believed to have been taken by URS Inc., a San Francisco consulting firm the state hired to examine the bridge from 2003 to 2007. NTSB's chairman did not comment on the photos, but has said the original design for



the bridge specified steel for those and other gusset plates that was too thin. The *Star Tribune* said inspection records make no mention of repairs to the bending gusset plates. The NTSB said last week that, at the time of the collapse, more than 191 tons of construction material had been piled over the bridge's weakest areas.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080323/ap\\_on\\_re\\_us/bridge\\_collapse\\_plates;\\_ylt=AnnNrSeN3dOEHqXASWVCflG2ocA](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080323/ap_on_re_us/bridge_collapse_plates;_ylt=AnnNrSeN3dOEHqXASWVCflG2ocA)

16. *March 23, United Press International* – (New Jersey) **Report: Newark Airport lax on security.** Security officials at New Jersey's Newark Airport routinely fail to appropriately check airport employees entering secure facilities, it was reported Sunday. The *New Jersey Star-Ledger* said repeated checks of a Terminal C employee access point showed airport employees were rarely searched when entering security-restricted areas. While passengers at the airport typically must pass through metal detectors and have their belongings X-rayed, the airport does not have such security precautions in place for its employees. The newspaper said the apparent lapse in airport security comes as concern is rising regarding an airport employee taking part in a terrorist plot or other illicit activities. Such concerns were fueled by last week's arrest of several Newark Airport baggage handlers who had been recruited to steal government checks as they were being transported through the airport. U.S. Transportation Security Administration officials have labeled Newark Liberty International Airport as safe from any potential sabotage by airport employees.

Source:

[http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/Top\\_News/2008/03/23/report\\_newark\\_airport\\_lax\\_on\\_security/5015/](http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/Top_News/2008/03/23/report_newark_airport_lax_on_security/5015/)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to Report

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

17. *March 24, India Post* – (International) **U.S. wants FDA inspectors stationed in India.** The Bush administration has said it wants officials from its Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to be stationed in India to check the safety of food products bound for the U.S., and has started initiating talks with New Delhi on the issue. The regulatory body's presence in India was necessary given the fact that more FDA approvals are coming out of India than any other country in the world other than the U.S., the secretary of Health and Human Services said, adding "It won't happen overnight. But it is a high priority." Speaking at a meeting hosted by the United States India Business Council, the secretary, who was recently on a five-day visit to India, announced that the FDA is to begin carrying out checks on Chinese food products. He said the FDA will create eight new positions at US diplomatic missions throughout

China over the next two years which will be contingent upon final approval from Beijing. There are some estimates that would suggest that by 2015 we will see three times the amount of imports we have today,” the secretary said.

Source: <http://indiapost.com/article/techbiz/2376/>

18. *March 23, Associated Press* – (Arkansas) **Arkansas plant explodes, causing gas leak, forcing evacuations.** An explosion at the Cargill Meat Solutions meat packing plant on Sunday caused an ammonia gas leak that forced 180 people from their homes, but none of those working at the plant were injured, emergency responders said. The explosion occurred in the freezer section of the plant, which makes frozen ground beef patties and steaks, said a spokeswoman with the state Department of Emergency Management. The fire involved an estimated 88,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia, plus the plant had 100,000 pounds of nonflammable carbon dioxide, which is used in refrigeration systems. A Cargill Inc. spokesman said the plant is closed Sundays, but that about 20 contractors and a few other employees were at the site at the time of the fire. The plant employs about 800 people, he said.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,340790,00.html>

19. *March 22, Associated Press* – (National) **FDA suspects cantaloupe, salmonella link.** The Food and Drug Administration issued the alert Saturday for melons believed to be linked to a salmonella outbreak. The melons were shipped by the Honduran company Agropecuaria Montelibano. Grocers are advised to remove from their stock any cantaloupes from this company. People should check with stores to see whether recently purchased cantaloupes came from Honduras. So far, 50 people have become sickened in 16 states and nine have become ill in Canada after eating the cantaloupes. No deaths have been reported, although 14 people have been hospitalized, the FDA said. The government also is seeking to detain all cantaloupes shipped to the United States by Agropecuaria Montelibano. The FDA said it was taking this step while it continues to investigate the outbreak with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and individual states. The 16 states that have reported illnesses are Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/HEALTH/03/22/fda.cantaloupe.ap/index.html>

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## **Water Sector**

20. *March 24, KDVR 31Denver* – (Colorado) **Water crisis in Alamosa still days from ending.** The number of suspected salmonella cases linked to an outbreak in Alamosa, Colorado, has topped 200. A public information officer says that of 216 reported cases so far, 68 have been confirmed by lab results. Officials plan to flush the water system beginning Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. in a process that could take several days before residents can use water straight from the tap again. Residents have been using about 10,000 bottles of water a day. That number is expected to jump to 40,000 once the flush begins. Treatment of the Alamosa water supply will involve a three-step process. Water managers will introduce a high concentration of chlorine into the water system Tuesday



morning. It will happen neighborhood by neighborhood, and city officials will notify each neighborhood before the process begins for them. Water should only be used to flush toilets during Stage 1. When the concentration of chlorine decreases to Stage 2 levels, Alamosa city officials will notify residents when additional uses of the water will be possible. Health officials told residents to stop drinking and cooking with tap water last Wednesday, after they say water samples tested positive for bacterial contamination.

Source:

<http://www.myfoxcolorado.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=6114653&version=7&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

21. ***March 24, Reuters*** – (International) **STMicro launches speedy chip to detect bird flu.**

European semiconductor maker, STMicroelectronics said it has developed a portable chip to detect influenza viruses including bird flu in humans. The device, which functions as a mini laboratory on a chip, can screen and identify multiple classes of pathogens and genes in a single diagnostic test within two hours, unlike other tests available on the market that can detect only one strain at a time and require days or weeks to obtain results. The chip can differentiate human strains of the Influenza A and B viruses, drug-resistant strains and mutated variants, including the Avian Flu or H5N1 strain. There have been 236 human deaths globally from the H5N1 strain, according to the World Health Organization, though it remains mainly a bird virus. The VereFlu Chip was developed by the Franco-Italian chipmaker together with Singapore's privately held Veredus Laboratories after more than a year of research. The application underwent extensive evaluation trials at Singapore's National University Hospital last year. It allows users to process and analyze patient samples – comprising human blood, serum, or respiratory swabs – on a single disposable thumbnail-sized microchip.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/europeCrisis/idUSSIN217265>

22. ***March 24, Washington Post*** – (National) **Patients' data on stolen laptop. A**

government laptop computer containing sensitive medical information on 2,500 patients enrolled in a National Institutes of Health study was stolen in February, potentially exposing seven years' worth of clinical trial data, including names, medical diagnoses, and details of the patients' heart scans. NIH officials said the laptop was taken February 23 from the locked trunk of a car driven by an NHLBI laboratory chief. The information was not encrypted, in violation of the government's data-security policy. NIH officials made no public comment about the theft and did not send letters notifying the affected patients of the breach until last Thursday – almost a month after the theft occurred. They said they hesitated because of concerns that they would provoke undue alarm. The incident is the latest in a number of failures by government employees to properly secure personal information. This month, the Government Accountability Office found that at least 19 of 24 agencies reviewed had experienced at least one breach that could expose people's personal information to identity theft.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/03/23/AR2008032301753\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/03/23/AR2008032301753_pf.html)

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

Nothing to Report

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

23. *March 24, Mount Vernon News* – (Ohio) **March 23-29 marks Severe Weather Week.** Many areas in Ohio have a network of outdoor emergency alert sirens that aid in early notification of weather emergencies. The sirens are designed as an outdoor warning system to alert area residents of threatening conditions. County emergency management agencies test their sirens on a regular basis. The governor of Ohio has proclaimed March 23 through 29 as Severe Weather Awareness Week. In a coordinated effort with the governor and the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness, the state will participate in a statewide tornado drill and test its Emergency Alert System on Wednesday at 9:50 a.m. Schools, businesses, and households are encouraged to exercise their emergency plans and tornado drills during this time.  
Source: <http://www.mountvernonnews.com/local/08/03/24/severe.weather.week.html>
24. *March 23, Janesville Gazette* – (Wisconsin) **Telephone notification system makes emergency response efficient.** Walworth County, Wisconsin, has used CodeRED since 2003 to notify people of emergencies, from missing persons to evacuations. The system is not used to notify people of severe weather. “It gives us a lot of efficiency in our response,” said the emergency management director. CodeRED allows the county to deliver important messages directly to home, business, and cellular telephone numbers at the rate of up to 60,000 calls an hour to a targeted geographic area. An opt-out feature is available, too, he said. But the county is careful in what it sends out. The key to CodeRED’s efficacy is its ability to target messages to a specific geographic area. CodeRED also provides officials with information about who received the message and who did not, whether someone actually picked up the phone or if the message was left on an answering machine. That information, in the case of an evacuation, for example, can help determine where to send emergency personnel.  
Source: <http://gazettextra.com/news/2008/mar/23/telephone-notification-system-makes-emergency-resp/>
25. *March 22, Hi-Desert Star* – (California) **Fire drill exposes minor glitches.** Five emergency responder agencies combined efforts Tuesday at the Joshua Tree, California, Courthouse to participate in a fire drill. In addition to the sheriff’s department, Calfire, Twentynine Palms Fire Department, County Fire, and Combat Center Fire Department all responded to the simulated fire located in a courtroom. The emergency responders also simulated recovering injured people. All departments within the courthouse, including the district attorney’s office, public defender’s office, and probation, evacuated. Firefighters from each agency donned masks, wielded axes, unrolled hoses,

and climbed roofs. The procedure was designed to test equipment and work out job assignments among the agencies. One of the things participants discovered was that the fire hydrant at the rear of the courthouse was installed backward, a situation that can easily be fixed now that it has been discovered. The drill also provided firefighters a chance to use masks with a new radio attachment that can assist communication.

Source: <http://www.hidesertstar.com/articles/2008/03/22/news/news1.txt>

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## **Information Technology**

26. *March 24, Washington Technology* – (National) **Virtualization to the rescue.** Charlotte County, Florida, has implemented a plan to protect critical information systems and ensure that first responders will continue to have access to important data, including the county's geographic information system. They use the GIS to locate important resources and structures such as water mains. The traditional way to build an IT infrastructure is to have a separate server for each application. With virtualization, multiple applications are loaded onto a single piece of hardware that is divided into virtual servers. Traditional servers are often underused, running at two to ten percent of their potential utilization. Virtualization allows agencies to reclaim some of those unused resources.  
Source: [http://www.washingtontechnology.com/print/23\\_05/32479-1.html](http://www.washingtontechnology.com/print/23_05/32479-1.html)
27. *March 23, Techworld* – (National) **Holes plugged in Kerberos Security System.** The Massachusetts Institute of Technology developers of the Kerberos authentication system have released patches for several serious security holes, which could allow remote attackers to obtain sensitive information, shut down a system, or execute malicious code. The first problem is with the Kerberos Key Distribution Center (KDC) and involves the way the KDC handles incoming krb4 requests. The problem can be exploited to crash the KDC server, execute malicious code, or disclose memory, according to MIT. The second problem is in the way the KDC sends responses for krb4 requests, which can be exploited to disclose potentially sensitive stack memory via a specially crafted krb4 request. Exploitation for these first two bugs requires that krb4 support is enabled in the KDC; it is disabled by default in newer versions. These bugs affect Kerberos 5 versions 1.6.3 and earlier. The third bug is in the Kerberos RPC library when handling open file descriptors. Under certain conditions, an attacker could send an overly large number of RPC connections, causing a memory corruption and allowing the execution of malicious code. This bug affects Kerberos 5 versions 1.2.2 to 1.3 and 1.4 through 1.6.3, according to MIT. Independent security firm Secunia gave the bugs a "highly critical" ranking.  
Source: <http://www.pcworld.com/article/id,143741-c,softwarebugs/article.html>
28. *March 22, IDG News Service* – (National) **Microsoft warns of new attack on Word.** Microsoft on Friday warned that cyber criminals may be taking advantage of an unpatched flaw in the Windows operating system to install malicious software on a victim's PC. The reported attack, now under investigation by Microsoft, involves a malicious Word document, but there may be other ways of exploiting the flaw, Microsoft said. The flaw lies in the Jet Database Engine that is used by a number of products including Microsoft Access. Microsoft is investigating whether other programs

may also be exploited in this type of attack. Although this kind of unpatched, “zero day” attack is always cause for concern, Microsoft downplayed the risk, calling it “limited.” Following its usual policy, Microsoft did not say when – or if – it planned to patch the bug. But in a statement sent to the press, the company did not rule out the possibility of an emergency patch, released ahead of its next set of security updates, which are expected on April 8.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/pcworld/20080322/tc\\_pcworld/143749;\\_ylt=AmoFadjQUvKAfbOXgPoTJn.DzdAF](http://news.yahoo.com/s/pcworld/20080322/tc_pcworld/143749;_ylt=AmoFadjQUvKAfbOXgPoTJn.DzdAF)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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## Communications Sector

### 29. *March 24, Reuters* – (National) **Google tells FCC of “white space” airwave plans.**

Internet search engine Google Inc gave U.S. regulators on Monday a proposal for allowing the airwaves between broadcast channels to be used for mobile broadband services. In comments filed with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Google said it would propose an enhanced system to prevent wireless devices operating in the so-called “white space” from interfering with adjacent television channels and wireless microphones. The FCC currently is testing equipment to see if they can make use of the white space spectrum without interfering with television broadcasts. However, the idea is opposed by U.S. broadcasters and makers of wireless microphones, who fear the devices would cause interference. A proposal being studied by the FCC would create two categories of users for the airwaves: one for low-power, personal, portable devices, and a second group for fixed commercial operations. The proposal would require that the devices include technology to identify unused spectrum and avoid interference.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080324/wr\\_nm/google\\_fcc\\_dc;\\_ylt=AuDthEAE8.9\\_GSCXwIgXFoz67rEF](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080324/wr_nm/google_fcc_dc;_ylt=AuDthEAE8.9_GSCXwIgXFoz67rEF)

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## Commercial Facilities Sector

### 30. *March 24, WALA 10 Pensacola* – (National) **Man arrested for making terrorist**

**threats.** Mobile, Florida, police arrested a man late Sunday night and charged him with making terrorist threats. Investigators say they received several calls from a man indicating there were explosive devices at several businesses in the Mobile area, but he would not say where. Late Sunday afternoon police were alerted to a man inside Mobile

Infirmery West claiming to be armed with explosives. The man had a room at the Red Roof Inn. Mobile Police say several suspicious devices were found in his room. The Bomb Squad was called to the scene and the devices were dismantled and made safe. The residents staying at the motel were evacuated for their safety. The man has been charged with three counts of possession of an explosive device, one count of possession of cocaine and two counts of making terrorist threats.

Source:

<http://www.myfoxgulfcoast.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=6113896&version=1&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

Nothing to Report

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## **Dams Sector**

31. *March 23, Winston-Salem Journal* – (North Carolina) **Salem Lake’s dam in need of work, city is warned.** The dam that holds Salem Lake, Winston-Salem’s second-largest source of water, was built more than 80 years ago with concrete that engineers now know reacts negatively with water, making the dam susceptible to cracking. City officials have approved costly repairs over the years to deal with the problem; the last major repair cost more than \$459,000 in 1997. Safety inspectors have for years, in fact, issued warnings about the importance of maintaining the dam and keeping it clear of concrete-weakening trees and shrubs. But state inspection records obtained by the Winston-Salem Journal show that the city has not adequately maintained Salem Lake Dam. State dam-safety inspectors are now requiring the City-County Utilities Division, which maintains the dam, to come into compliance. Inspectors with the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ Land Quality Section have sent the utilities division a “Notice of Deficiency” that lists several problems.

Source:

[http://www.journalnow.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=WSJ%2FMGArticle%2FWSJ\\_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1173355062391](http://www.journalnow.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=WSJ%2FMGArticle%2FWSJ_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1173355062391)

32. *March 23, Indianapolis Star* – (Indiana) **Dam at Eagle Creek Park fails.** The dam holding Lilly Lake at Eagle Creek Park in Indiana failed this morning, draining the lake through three holes. “Lilly Lake dam failed sometime early this morning, in the wee hours,” said the president of the Eagle Creek Park Foundation. “All the water of the dam has been washed out along with all the fish.” Eagle Creek is one of the largest city parks in the country and a recreational destination for residents and international tourists. The lake, though, has been a safety hazard because it has been in poor shape for several years. The park foundation has been requesting that the Indy Parks and Recreation Department repair it each year, but the funds that are put in to the budget for repairs are eventually taken out, the president said.

Source:

<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080323/LOCAL1804/80323005/1304/frontpagecities>

33. *March 23, Associated Press* – (Arkansas; Missouri) **Forecasters warn of flooding in Ark.** High water pouring down the White River could cause historic flooding in cities along its path in eastern Arkansas, forecasters warned Sunday. The river, one of many out of its banks across wide areas of the Midwest, could top levels recorded in a devastating flood 25 years ago, a National Weather Service meteorologist warned. A tributary of the White River, the Black River, ruptured a levee in two places Saturday near Pochontas, said a spokeswoman for the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management. That stream has been bloated by water pouring downstream from hard-hit southeastern Missouri. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers worked through the night to plug the breaks with sandbags, and that work appeared to be holding as of Sunday afternoon, the spokeswoman said. In southern Missouri, water poured through several breaches in levees and led authorities to evacuate towns west of Cape Girardeau. At least 200 homes and 13 businesses had been evacuated in Cape Girardeau County, said the emergency management director.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jW-BndswWuhgPAPXOK4Q6TCQsANQD8VJE3A00>

34. *March 23, Associated Press* – (Illinois; Missouri) **Missouri levee keeps flood waters back.** Residents of small towns along the Meramec, Missouri, breathed a sigh of relief Saturday as the river crested following days of flooding caused by torrential rainfall across the Midwest. At Valley Park, the river rose to a peak of 37.8 feet Saturday morning, well above the flood stage of 16 feet but still below the record of 39.7 feet, according to the National Weather Service. In southern Missouri, water poured through several breaches in levees and led authorities to evacuate towns west of Cape Girardeau. At least 200 homes and 13 businesses had been evacuated in Cape Girardeau County, said the emergency management director. At least 70 Missouri counties have reported flooding this week. Authorities were keeping an eye on a levee near Grand Tower, Illinois, because of a threat that the Big Muddy River could breach it and threaten the town of about 750 people.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080323/ap\\_on\\_re\\_us/severe\\_weather\\_80](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080323/ap_on_re_us/severe_weather_80)

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